ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the business of the House from Mr. S. Narayana Pillai. It reads—

> "I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the excessive exportation of aloe yarn from Travancore to various places outside the State which is liable to affect thousands of labourers engaged in the manufacture of camouflage nets for war purposes."

Is aloe fibre used for camouflage nets for war purposes?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Quite recently I saw certain notifications from the Government of India. The matter will be looked into immediately. Now does the honourable member want any time to move his motion?

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI: No. Sir.

DEMAND VIII—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE—Rs. 23,22,578—(contd.)

Motion No. 6—(contd.)

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN: സർ, പറവൂരിൽനിന്നും ഫസ്റ്റ മൈൽ അകലെയാണ ടെലഫോടതി സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ആ കാരണം കൊണ്ടും കൂടാതെ ഞാൻ ഇന്നലെ പറഞ്ഞ കാരണങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറും എലക്ട്രിക്കൽ എഞ്ചിനീയരും അവിടെ ഒരു പബ്ലിക് കാൾ ആഫീസ് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതരണമെന്ന് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ട കൊണ്ട ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I support the motion to point out the necessity for having a public call office at Attingal, the importance of which cannot be overestimated.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, the work in connection with the extension of the telephone line to Parur has already been sanctioned by Government and included in the budget for the next year. The extension to Palai is already in progress and will be completed in a month or so. The extension to Muvattupuzha has been completed. The following public call offices were opened during the current year, one in Kallar, one in Neriamangalam, one in Chavara, one in Munnar and one in Muvattupuzha. The idea of Government is to gradually extend the telephone line to all the important industrial and commercial centres in the State; but the programme will naturally require very careful consideration at every stage, having regard to the present abnormal rise in the prices of materials. Whatever estimates that may have been framed a year or two ago will no longer be valid on account of the very large increase in the price of materials and the difficulty in getting those materials also now. For instance in the current year's budget, there was a provision of Rs. 1½ lakhs for opening new telephone lines; but we had to abandon all that programme because

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we could not get the materials and in some cases because though in accordance with the original forecast the scheme was expected to give a reasonable return, the financial result on account of the present increased cost was very disappointing. In regard to the extension to Changanacherry, investigation is already in progress and in so far as there is a satisfactory assurance of getting 10 to 12 local suppliers, the work appears to be promising and it might be included in the next year's programme.

In regard to Chengannur the position is as follows. From the trend of the discussion on public call offices it appears to me that the honourable members have not a clear idea regarding the feasibility of opening public call offices. Each public call office has to be decided in relation to its proximity to the nearest branch station. The tapping of a main telephone circuit to open a public call office may be justified only if it will not interfere with the traffic of the main telephone trunk as local calls from such call offices may perhaps be ten or twelve in a day. But to tap a line between Mavelikara and Kottayam which links up two important junctions, one from Peermade to Kottayam and the other from Alwaye to Kottayam, will be most undesirable as the volume of traffic on this section is very very high. The House will be interested to know that the traffic level there compares very favourably with that in British India. People are getting telephone minded and wherever public call offices have been opened (with very few exceptions) there has been a very satisfactory response. But at the same time to minimise the inconvenience and delay caused by intermediate tapping it is desirable to have separate lines for such call offices as Changanacherry, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, etc. But the cost becomes the main consideration.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ആലുവായിലേക്ക് ടെലഫോൺ വയർ കണക്ററ് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നത് എവിടെനിന്നാണ്?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Sir, the nearest branch line to Alwaye is Kothamangalam which is a junction connecting the High Ranges. A call office for Perumbavur is being considered. But as the volume of traffic between the High Ranges and Alwaye is high an intermediate tapping will not be justified. What I am now considering is therefore to utilise that section of the telephone line reserved for the hydro-electric operation for the public also.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: കോതമംഗലത്തുനിന്നും ആലുവായിലേക്കു വയർ കണക്ററ് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്ക് പെരുമ്പാവൂരിൽ ഒരു പബ്ളിക്ക് കാൾ വയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ചെലവുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will raise his voice.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: The question of Perumbavur public call office is being considered, although I have not received any application from any one from Perumbavur for a public call offic there.

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MR K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം അസംബ്ളിയി ലെ വാദപ്രതിവാദസമയത്തുതന്നെ ഒരു പബ്ളിക്കുകാൾഓഫീസ് പെ രുമ്പാവൂരിൽ തരണമെന്നു പറയുകയും ഏകദേശം തരാമെന്നുള്ള അർത്ഥത്തിൽ മറുപടി പറകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു മെംബർക്ക് അറിയാമോ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON : Yes, Sir. Making a statement on the floor of this House is one thing and making a definite application for a telephone public call office is another. I must have some thing to act upon. Payment has to be made in advance without which I will not be justified in incurring an expenditure on a new public call office. In the case of Muvattupuzha I had some 5 or 6 applications for a local telephone system and the work was considered economically justifiable as there was a possible return of Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 per annum. On the receipt of applications for a public call office and for local subscribers an estimate can be prepared and if it is found to be paying, the work can be got sanctioned. If I had any application from Perumbavur the question could be easily considered. Here the question was not for a local telephone system but for a public call office. One cannot foresee the number of calls there will be in a public call office and so one cannot have a clear idea of the revenue that can be derived from it. Some public call offices may require ten or twelve miles of line extension which at the present cost of materials will mean an expenditure of Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 16,000. Therefore each public call office has to be decided on its own merits and we cannot lay any hard and fast rule. The promise of getting a large volume of business may not often be a criterion in deciding the feasibility or otherwise of incurring such expenditure for extensions. If, on the other hand, there is a definite assurance of subscribers, requiring local connection, the case is entirely different. Action on such applications can be taken because there is an assurance of such subscriber paying a definite subscription every year. Apart from this aspect the policy of the Government is to extend the telephone service wherever possible and it will be a great convenience if all the major Anchal Offices are served with public call offices so that the amount of revenue that might otherwise go for telegrams could be diverted to this department. This will be clear by the progress made in the number of public call offices opened year after year and also the volume of business transacted by the department. But my difficulty is with regard to laying any hard and fast rule in respect of the provision of public call office in a particular locality. If there are local subscribers I shall be able to foresee this minimum revenue that can be expected and I can then estimate the capital cost and see whether the line will be paying or not. For instance, honourable members drew the attention of the House yesterday to certain public call offices which are not paying. That is exactly my difficulty. We open up a station on an experimental basis and we find that there is no reasonable revenue coming from this office. After all, the investment on these undertaking is of a commercial nature for which interest has to be paid. As far as possible, where there are definite requests from the public to have telephone services installed, those extensions would be given due preference based on the income derivable.

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I may also mention that for the programme of 1117 we have made provision for over one and a half lakhs of rupees for extending telephone service to various places and of these, works in two or three places have been started already and the rest will be a matter of detailed investigations based on the results of which action will be taken. In the light of what I have said I hope the honourable member will withdraw his motion.

MR PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I beg permission of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 7.

MR. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,00,000 for Trivandrum Telephone and Trunk Telephone by Re. 1-

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: സർ, എന്റെ ചോദ്യം കൊണ്ട് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതെല്ലാം പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല. എലക്ട്രിക്കൽ എഞ്ചിനീയർ പറഞ്ഞ മറുപടി കേൾക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. മറ്റു സ്നേഹിതന്മാരോട് ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ അവരും കേട്ടില്ല എന്നാണു പറഞ്ഞത്. അതുകൊണ്ടു മേലാലെങ്കിലും അഫിഷ്യൽമെമ്പറന്മാർ മറുപടി പറയുമ്പോൾ കേൾക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Sir, the Honourable Member is complaining that I have not been speaking loud enough.

PRESIDENT: That is quite possible.

Motion No. 8.

SRIMATHI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to reduce the total allotment of Rs. 23,22,578 under Demand VIII by Rs. 5 to urge the desirability of reducing electric and telephone charges.

PRESIDENT: We will have to enhance the telephone charges if the price of the telephone materials that we are getting remains as it is.

SRIMATHI T. NARAYANI AMMA: My point is that if we reduce the telephone charges, the number of licensees will be greater.

PRESIDENT: Under normal conditions there is no doubt that there will be an increase in the demand if there is a reduction in the telephone charges. But we are at present in a very difficult intermediate stage. Probably the Honourable Members have no idea of the increase in price in respect of copper wire, electrical machinery and almost everything connected with electricity. The reason is that war is fought on the basis of telephone and electricity. Wireless telephone and electricity are the basic elements of the present day warfare. So at least till the war is over we cannot get any electric materials at a cheaper rate. So I do not think that this is the proper time for thinking of any reduction.

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SRIMATHI T. NARAYANI AMMA: I do not then move the motion.

The motion by leave was withdrawn.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 23,22,578 under Demand VIII—Electricty and Telephone—was put to vote and carried.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND IX—COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT.

MR. E. G. SALTER: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 17,00,242 under Demand IX—Commercial Transport.

The following motion was not moved as it was inadmissible:—

Motion No. I.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,800 for allowance to Director by Re. 1.

Motion No. II.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: Sir, I beg to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,600 for Operating Superintendent by Re. 1 to speak about the inconvenience experienced by the travelling public in transport buses.

This is a question which arouses lively and perennial discussion in this Assembly. Last year there was rather a protracted discussion on the subject and I shall open my remarks with congratulating the Director of Transport for having accepted and put into practice some of the suggestions that were made to him by the Honourable Members last year this time. I will just make mention of one. The employment of porters in the transport buses—that was a very important necessity for the convenience of the travelling public for taking the loads of the passengers up to the top of the bus and down. That was a very great necessity and now the porters are employed in the buses.

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN: സാധാരണയായി ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ബസ്സുകാർ സ്ഥലമില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാലും വഴിയിൽനിൽക്കുന്ന ആളുകളെ ചാടിക്കയറുന്നില്ലയോ?

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയല്ല ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞത്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുമ്പോൾ ഈ ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഞാൻ ഉത്തരം പറയാം.

The Director deserves all the more to be congratulated because the porters are not paid by the Department. They get half a chackram or one chackram for every load from every passenger, and I am sure no passenger would grudge paying that amount.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Deputy President*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. What has the Operating Superintendent to do in this matter?

PRESIDENT: What is the position, Mr. Salter?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Sir, I may admit that duties of the Operating Superintendent are such that he controls all the staff emyloyed in the buses.

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